

REMARKS

No action on the merits has yet been received by the Applicant. The present amendment is being submitted in order to correct a number of minor informalities discovered in the specification and claims, and to improve certain aspects of the claim language. The Applicant hopes that these changes will add to the clarity and consistency of the application, and will be found helpful by the Examiner.

On reviewing the application, the Applicant has become aware of a number of formalistic and/or typographic errors. These include mistaken reference numerals on pages 8 and 9 of the specification, typographic errors on page 8, and grammatical errors on page 9. These have now been corrected.

In addition, the Applicant has noted that claim 1 as previously worded inadvertently excluded a variant implementation of selective removal of a releasing agent as described on page 13, lines 9-12, of the specification. To avoid unduly limiting the scope of the claims, claim 1 has now been amended to refer generically to “effecting selective deployment ... of a releasing agent”. New dependent claims 26 and 27 relate specifically to the possibilities of selective application and selective removal of the releasing agent to achieve the selective deployment of claim 1.

The Applicant has also noted that method claim 21 is unnecessarily different in form from method claim 1. Claim 21 was intended to closely parallel claim 1, differing only in that claim 21 recites an activating agent used to selectively effect bonding while claim 1 recites a releasing agent for selectively inhibiting bonding. In order to clarify the scope of the claims and unify the application, the Applicant has chosen to cancel claims 21-25, replacing them with new independent claim 28 and dependent claim 29. New independent claim 28 closely parallels the language of

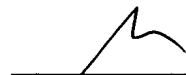
claim 1 other than the use of an activating agent. Dependent claim 29 parallels canceled claim 22.

In the figures, the Applicant has noted that the lower machine frame section in Figure 1 was mislabeled 106 instead of 10*b*. The drive belt 16, just visible below lower machine frame section 10*b* in Figure 2, was inadvertently lost in Figure 1 and the reference numeral misplaced. Finally, the screws 17 on which table 15 moves vertically were confusingly shown in Figure 2 as being discontinuous below and above table 15. These errors have now been corrected. Replacement formal drawings will be submitted in due course.

Please find attached hereto a version of the amended portions of the application marked up to identify the changes made.

The Applicant believes that the Application is now ready for examination and looks forward to receiving an action on the merits in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark M. Friedman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,883

Date: August 27, 2001

Version Of Amendments Marked-Up To Show Changes Made:

In the Specification:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 8 (lines 8-13) as follows:

--The adhesive applicator 20 is also provided with a solenoid 37 to move the ~~adhesive~~adhesive applicator either to an operative position or to a non-operative position. For example, the adhesive applicator would be moved to a non-operative position when the first sheet 3 is fed so as to prevent that sheet from adhering to the table ~~4~~15.--

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 9 (lines 6-24) as follows:

--As each sheet 3, except the first sheet to contact table ~~4~~15, is fed by the feed rollers 12, 13, 14 to the upper end 10a of the machine frame 10, the underside of the sheet is completely coated with adhesive by adhesive applicator 20, and its upper side is selectively coated by applicator 22 with a releasing agent ~~by applicator 22~~ which does not bond to the adhesive. The adhesive layer applied by applicator 20 covers the complete under surface of the respective sheet, whereas the releasing agent applied by applicator 22 covers only the upper surface of the sheet which does not come within the contour 4 of the respective layer of the sheet in the finished three-dimensional article. For example, if the respective layer to be formed by the sheet in the finished three-dimensional article is of a square contour, the rectangular sheet 3 to define that layer would be coated with the releasing agent only on its surface which is outwardly of the square defining the respective layer in the finished article; i.e., the surface within the square would not be covered by the releasing agent.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making a three-dimensional object constituted of a large number of thin preformed sheets each bonded on its opposite sides to the next adjacent sheets on its opposite sides, with each sheet cut along a contour corresponding to the contour of the respective layer constituted by the sheet in the object, the method comprising effecting ~~selectively applying to deployment on~~ one side of each sheet of a releasing agent effective to inhibit bonding between adjacent sheets, the releasing agent being ~~applied~~ deployed selectively in a manner such that, after the sheet has been bonded to the next adjacent sheet on that side, the surface of the sheet within the respective contour is bonded to the next adjacent sheet, while the remaining portion of the respective sheet not within said contour is readily separable from the three-dimensional object.